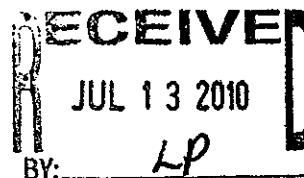


July 8, 2010

Kathy F. Pielsticker, Administrator
DATCP-Division of Ag Resource Mgmt
PO Box 8911, 2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI 53708-8911



Dear Kathy,


Congratulations on 35 applicants for the new PACE program! It is exciting to see agricultural land in Wisconsin being protected by this new program. Thank you for allowing NRCS to review the potential applicant list and compare it to the eligible FRPP applicant list in the effort to maximize funding.

Our 8 eligible FRPP applicants scored, in descending order: Schultz, Lea, Fountain Prairie, Treinen, Pork N Pines, Severson, Brattset and Fiedler. A strong partnership with FRPP with the first PACE participants would help in establishing a showcase of worthy agricultural easements and also provide a track record for future FRPP and PACE funding. Since Fountain Prairie scored high for FRPP eligibility, we would like you to consider moving this easement up in the ranking and funding it in the first go-round. Our current allocation of funding would be able to fund the first seven applicants listed above if they pass basic eligibility requirements. However, if you would also consider funding Fielder (number 22 on your list), we believe we can secure FRPP funding for that easement as well.

The FRPP applications for all of the easements listed above were good applicants with established Land Trusts or Towns with PDR programs. I believe all of them would be good candidates for the first PACE funding cycle.

If you have questions regarding FRPP applications and funding please contact Peggie James, FRPP Coordinator, peggie.james@wi.usda.gov, 608-662-4422 x238.

Sincerely,



PATRICIA S. LEAVENWORTH
State Conservationist

cc:

Vicki A. Elkin - DATCP [Vicki.Elkin@wisconsin.gov], Madison, Wisconsin
Craig Ficenec, Acting ASTC for Easement Programs, NRCS, Madison, Wisconsin
Peggie James, FRPP Program Manager, NRCS, Madison, Wisconsin